

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03174

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ, TC, GQ

SUBJECT: C-24 CHAIRMAN SALIM ON PUERTO RICO AND GUAM

1. AMBASSADOR YOUNG MET WITH AMBASSADOR SALIM AUGUST 9 TO DISCUSS THREE ISSUES BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF 24: PUERTO RICO; COMPOSITION OF VISITING MISSION TO GUAM; LANGUAGE REGARDING MILITARY BASES IN COMMITTEE REPORT ON GUAM.

2. AMBASSADOR YOUNG PROVIDED AMBASSADOR SALIM WITH THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROCLAMATION AND ASKED IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO FORESTALL THE MEETING ON PUERTO RICO BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETS. SALIM RESPONDED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NUMEROUS REQUESTS FROM PUERTO RICAN PETITIONERS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES EXPRESSING THEIR DESIRE TO SPEAK BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WHEN IT MEETS IN LATE AUGUST. CONSEQUENTLY, SALIM FEELS IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ENTERTAIN THOUGHTS OF NOT HAVING A MEETING SINCE MOST OF THE PETITIONERS, IF NOT ALL, HAVE IN THEIR COMMUNICATIONS TO HIM CATEGORIZED THE SITUATION IN PUERTO RICO AS BEING COLONIAL. SALIM SAID HE FEELS MUCH OF THE INTEREST IN PUERTO RICO ARISES IN A DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONTEXT.

3. SALIM ADVISED THAT THE USG NOT WAGE AN ALL-OUT CAM-
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PAIGN AGAINST THE COMMITTEE MEETING OR THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE. HE FEELS SUCH A CAMPAIGN WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. SALIM THOUGHT THAT WITH THE COUP IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE DETERIORATING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ETHIOPIA THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH VOTES IN THE COMMITTEE TO WORK THE US WILL. SALIM SUGGESTED THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG CONSIDER APPEARING BEFORE

THE COMMITTEE OF 24 TO STATE CLEARLY THE US POSITION AND EMPHASIZE THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION. SUCH A MOVE WOULD STRENGTHEN OUR CASE MORE THAN INTENSE LOBBYING IN MEMBER NATIONS' CAPITALS.

4. SALIM SAID HE THOUGHT THE COMMITTEE COULD RECOMMEND A FAIR AND BALANCED MISSION TO GUAM. HE SUGGESTED SIERRA LEONE OR IVORY COAST PLUS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A "RADICAL" COUNTRY WITH A HEAD OF THE DELEGATION WHO WAS NEUTRAL, SUCH AS JAIPAL OF INDIA. HE SUGGESTED THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG APPROACH JAIPAL ABOUT HEADING A MISSION TO GUAM.

5. ON THE QUESTION OF MILITARY BASES LANGUAGE IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT ON GUAM, SALIM SAID WE COULD EXPECT MORE MODERATE LANGUAGE THAN WAS BEING PRESSED BY THE SOVIETS. HE SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE USUN WITH A DRAFT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE SO WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO COMMENT. SALIM SAID THE COMMITTEE OF 24 WOULD NO DOUBT RECOMMEND SELF-DETERMINATION AND/OR INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO, BUT HE FEELS WE OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH A MODERATE FINDING. WELLS

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